

I Claim:

1. A method to treat tissue in a selected wall region of an esophagus comprising the steps of
introducing an elongate member into the
esophagus, the elongate member comprising at least one
electrode operatively coupled to a source of
radiofrequency energy and an inflatable body carried by
the elongate member free of physical or electrical
contact with the electrode;

inflating the body to stabilize the electrode
in physical and electrical contact with the selected wall
region, while keeping the body free of physical or
electrical contact with electrode; and

delivering radiofrequency energy to the
electrode to treat tissue in the selected wall region.

2. The method of claim 1
wherein delivering radiofrequency energy
causes heating of tissue in the selected wall region.

3. The method of claim 1
wherein delivering radiofrequency energy
source causes the temperature of tissue in the selected
wall region to be heated to a range of 45°C to 65°C.

4. The method of claim 3
wherein delivering radiofrequency energy
causes the temperature of tissue in the selected wall
region to be heated to a range of 50°C to 60°C.

5. The method of claim 1
wherein delivering radiofrequency energy
causes the temperature of tissue in the selected wall
region to be heated to a range of 60°C to 80°C.

6. The method of claim 5
wherein delivering radiofrequency energy
causes the temperature of tissue in the selected wall
region to be heated to a range of 60°C to 70°C.

7. The method of claim 1

further comprising the step of modulating a power level of the radiofrequency energy delivered in response to a measured temperature of tissue in the selected wall region.

5 8. The method of claim 1

further comprising the step of modulating a power level of the radiofrequency energy delivered in response to a measured impedance of tissue in the selected wall region.

10 9. A method of thermally-mediated therapy to treat a dysfunction associated with laxity in a selected wall portion of an esophagus, the method comprising the steps of

15 introducing the elongate member into the esophagus, the elongate member comprising at least one electrode operatively coupled to a source of electrical energy and an inflatable body carried by the elongate member free of physical or electrical contact with the electrode;

20 inflating the body to stabilize the electrode in physical and electrical contact with the selected wall region, while keeping the body free of physical or electrical contact with electrode; and

25 delivering electrical energy to the electrode to stimulate an injury-healing process.

10. The method of claim 9

wherein delivering electrical energy affects synthesis of nascent collagen in the injury-healing process.

30 11. The method of claim 9

wherein delivering electrical energy affects shrinkage of native collagen.

12. The method of claim 9

35 wherein delivering electrical energy causes heating of tissue in the selected wall region.

13. The method of claim 9
wherein delivering electrical energy source causes the temperature of tissue in the selected wall region to be heated to a range of 45°C to 65°C.
- 5 14. The method of claim 13
wherein delivering electrical energy causes the temperature of tissue in the selected wall region to be heated to a range of 50°C to 60°C.
- 10 15. The method of claim 8
wherein delivering electrical energy causes the temperature of tissue in the selected wall region to be heated to a range of 60°C to 80°C.
- 15 16. The method of claim 15
wherein delivering electrical energy causes the temperature of tissue in the selected wall region to be heated to a range of 60°C to 70°C.
- 20 17. The method of claim 9
further comprising the step of modulating a power level of the electrical energy delivered in response to a measured temperature of tissue in the selected wall region.
- 25 18. The method of claim 9
further comprising the step of modulating a power level of the electrical energy delivered in response to a measured impedance of tissue in the selected wall region.